



From the Director, Headquarters Marine Corps Safety Division

Marines,

Our operational tempo remains high, which means we all need to be 100 percent combat ready. All mishaps, whether big or small, on-duty or off, threaten our combat readiness. Whether a Marine was injured due to an IED explosion or a motorcycle mishap on liberty, the loss of that injured Marine's manpower and expertise hurts the unit's ability to respond effectively to an immediate need from or to the battlefield.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom II, between February 15, 2004, and March 11, 2005, 311 Marines were MEDEVACed for mishaps. Mishaps included having an arm or leg crushed during ground-guide operations, or a toe blown off from a negligent discharge.

To be ready to respond to threats in all corners of the globe, Marines must look out for each other – Marines protect their own. Leaders must ensure their units conduct training operations in, out, and around tactical vehicles and that weapons-handling refreshers are conducted for all Marines.

Summer is a great time for relaxing and having fun. Make sure you and your fellow Marines are fit to fight.

Semper Fi,

Fred Wenger III

Col Fred Wenger